

**CZ/NERR Meeting Notes**  
**Floodplain Management Session**  
**February 27, 2014**

**Objectives**

- Understand local floodplain management issues and challenges (e.g., storm surge, flood maps, Biggert-Waters Act).
- Learn about the Biggert-Waters Act and how states are responding to it.
- Share examples of activities and tools from the states that demonstrate how CZ managers, NERRs, Sea Grant, local communities, and other partners are engaging in floodplain management issues.
- Identify participants' challenges related to floodplain management issues.

**Small Group Discussion Questions**

**1. What activities are you engaged in that have (or could have) connections to floodplain management?**

- CTP trainings in Florida
- DEM hazard mitigation training in St. Tammany
- On the ground restoration – Florida
- Permit Reviews
- CRS User Groups – 9 parishes, CHOST in MS, Gulf-wide CTP
- Federal Consistency – LA DNR, MDMR
- NERR Disaster Response Planning (5 Gulf NERRs)
- Landscape Scale Conservation Plans
- Identifying priorities for RESTORE
- NOAA's 309
- Coastal Resilience Networks (CRest) grant program  
(<http://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppld=252013>)
- Grants – Community Resilience Index
- LDNR is working with local programs to pass ordinances
- CRI assistance (Sea Grant and NERRs)
- LDNR assist local parishes with ordinances and CRI
- NFIP/CRS work to get discounts
- In TX - CRS training in Texas, NERR is working with CRI , setbacks volunteer program, rolling easements
- SCIPP research
- FWS – private/public
- Coast restoration plan and FPM in Plaquemines
- MDMR, ADCNR, GBNERR, WBNERR GOMA – Living shorelines inventory, living shorelines outreach, presentations, beneficial use group
- TX – Acquisition, Ducks Unlimited
- Best Practices on how to engage Lafitte (Corey)
- Greenbelts and Bluebelts in TX communities (Sally)
- CPEX is conducting surveys and interviews regarding attitudes around non-structural planning

## 2. What tools and/or resources are you using (or aware of) that support floodplain management activities?

- Local ordinances, building codes, and laws (including national legislation like the Clean Water Act)
- 306CZM grants are used to provide communities with resources to help with things like hazard mitigation grants, ordinances, etc.
- 309 CZM grants are used to support 5-year assessments and strategies, program changes, etc.
- High water mark signs (Orange Beach, Alabama has a great example)
- State Hazard Mitigation Plans
- NERR Coastal Training Programs and Sea Grant Programs are great workshop resources!
- Digital Coast is a clearinghouse of data, tools, and trainings ([www.csc.noaa.gov/digitalcoast/](http://www.csc.noaa.gov/digitalcoast/))
- LSU Ag Center Website ([www.lsuagcenter.com/](http://www.lsuagcenter.com/))
- Community Resilience Index  
([masgc.org/assets/uploads/publications/662/coastal\\_community\\_resilience\\_index.pdf](http://masgc.org/assets/uploads/publications/662/coastal_community_resilience_index.pdf))
- Texas hazards models
- SURGEDAT (<http://surge.srcc.lsu.edu/>)
- SLAMM
- GOMA Resilience PIT
- Local knowledge!
- Community Rating System Program and associated users groups
  - <http://www.fema.gov/national-flood-insurance-program-community-rating-system>
  - [http://www.floodsmart.gov/floodsmart/pages/crs/community\\_rating\\_system.jsp](http://www.floodsmart.gov/floodsmart/pages/crs/community_rating_system.jsp)
  - <http://crsresources.org/>
- State Association of Floodplain Managers – could be opportunities to integrate state CZM and FPM work.
- NERRS Science Collaborative
- Hazard mitigation work by LA GOHSEP
- CIAP
- Gulf of Mexico Energy Security Act (GOMESA)
- RESTORE
- Clean and Resilient Marinas Initiative (<http://www.gulfofmexicoalliance.org/2013/08/clean-resilient-marinas-initiative/>)
- Safe Harbors Program
- Beach Watch water quality monitoring system
- Homeowner's Handbooks – each state has one ([stormsmart.org/handbook/](http://stormsmart.org/handbook/))
- StormSmart ([stormsmart.org](http://stormsmart.org))

## 3. What are some of the challenges that prevent you from engaging more in floodplain management?

- People hate to be regulated (continuous, price)
- Staffing, resources
- Not part of the job
- Rules set at federal level (not state/local) – disenfranchised
- Would be a lot of work.
- May not understand the issues/challenges. NFIP is a complex program
- NOAA does encourage working on hazard resilience/floodplain management.

- Wetland protection/restoration is floodplain management work. Don't work on other aspects.
- Big hurdle for more building regulations is no political will in parishes
- Private land ownership issues can impact restoration/renourishment
- Does NOAA want CZM/NERRs to stay away from BW-12?
  - BW has generated important conversations
  - Communities should encourage flood safety...vs. focus on maps
- Might lose your job if speak truth about floodplain issues.
- Insurance industry is a big player and we rarely deal with them.
- Realtors and insurers are not telling people about risk.
- State EMAs have the lead
- Disconnect b/w local planning, land use decisions and floodplain mgt.
- Bottom line: trying to manage private property and no one wants to be told what to do.
- Messaging
  - Get a lot of gloom and doom but negative doesn't sell.
  - Tell people what they can do about it.
  - Communicate the value of restoration work.
- Communicating surge and how it relates to changes in conditions.
- Keeping up with data and research
  - FEMA doesn't engage
  - Use contractors – not friendly
- Good outreach is needed. Someone needs to take ownership. Need user-friendly translations and consistent messages
- People believe what they they've experienced. Need to convey historic perspective/historic storms.
- High water marks are effective, but real estate and chambers of commerce may not like them.
- Coordination with land trusts is needed.

#### **Needs (Related to the large group FPM discussion....)**

- CPRA Master Plan – communicate the timeline (planning horizon) as well as the benefits of projects – TWIG is doing some social impact work that should convey short v.s long-term impacts.
- Need to talk about how drought and FPM influence each other, especially in TX
- Need a state voice/lead to “take on” FEMA
  - CTP (Cooperative Technical Partnership) b/w state and FEMS is inadequate (only riverine right now and needs to include coastal)
- Need more oral histories to go along with flood maps to show how communities are changing and moving. Could link to SURGEDAT

#### **Other Meeting Action Items**

- Share CRest FFO and think about regional opportunities...
- Share notes
- Organize a federal consistency meeting for the states (include BOEM)